

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.

DISINFECTANTS.

SULPHATE OF IRON (COPPERAS).

Application.—To disinfect privies, cess pools, drains, sewers, and all vessels and places receiving the discharges of the sick. It decomposes the sulphuretted hydrogen and the ammoniacal compounds so poisonous and offensive in privy vaults.

How Used.—Dissolve eight or ten pounds of the Copperas in eight or ten gallons of water. Add to this solution, one pint of the impure Carbolic Acid. The solution will be rendered more complete if hot water is used. A privy which accommodates an ordinary sized household will require at least one-eighth of this quantity twice every week during the hot summer months. Masses of filth in privies, sewers or drains should be thoroughly saturated with it, at brief intervals, until all offensive odors are gone.

CARBOLIC ACID.

Application.—Mixed in the proportion of one part of the Acid to from forty to one hundred parts of water, Carbolic Acid has a wide range of application as an antiseptic and disinfectant. For purposes of thorough destruction of disease germs, a solution of not less than two per cent. of the Acid should be employed. When used to disinfect clothing, a solution of one part of the Acid to one hundred parts of water would be an appropriate strength.

Carbolic Acid is believed to be an effectual agent in the destruction of every communicable virus of disease, and by its antiseptic property prevents those kinds of fermentation and decay which aid in propagating epidemics.

How Used.—In solution in water of varying strength, according to the purposes to which it is to be applied. It is especially adapted to disinfect *sewage, foul grounds, drains, sinks, foul heaps of manure or garbage, stables, privies* and the air of a foul place in which any pestilential disease exists.

SULPHUROUS ACID GAS.

Application.—To disinfect rooms and infected clothing. Applied only in case of *unoccupied* rooms. To be effectual in destroying disease germs, the fumes must be so strong that they would destroy human life.

How Used.—Place in an earthen vessel or iron kettle containing a small quantity of ashes, a few live coals, upon which place from one to four pounds of sulphur, in powder or fragments, according to the size of the room. One and one-half ounces is the proper quantity to each 100 cubic feet of space.

To guard against accident by fire, it is well to place the vessel on some fire-proof article or suspend it over a tub of water. As soon as the Sulphur is ignited, the room having previously been rendered tight, should be closed and remain closed for twelve or twenty-four hours.

Ventilation, and painting the wood-work, white-washing and re-papering the walls, will complete the process, and fit the room for re-habitation.

DRY EARTH.

Application.—To absorb effluvia from decaying animal and vegetable matter, and appropriately, human excreta.

Dry Earth is nearly a complete disinfectant, if used in sufficient quantities to absorb all moisture. It should be abundantly applied.

There are a number of other disinfectants, but the above will, it is believed, meet all ordinary demands.

The efficiency of disinfectants in all cases will depend upon the thoroughness with which they are applied. It may be remarked that they are almost always used too sparingly.